

**Open Doors With DG Diana  
Community And Youth Service During COVID-19  
6:30-7:30 p.m., October 15, 2020**

*(Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/ANQf91XIfYs>)*

### **Housekeeping and Updates –**

1. District Governor's Aide **Bob Wicks**: Housekeeping Rules
2. District Governor **Diana Nestorova**: Comments and updates on September "Open Doors With DG Diana," and update on fundraisers presented at last "Open Doors:"
  - *Southborough's GoFundMe reached its goal.*
  - *Groton-Pepperell's Video Game Tournament has 12 teams signed up so far, and the event is October 26.*
  - *Milford's "One Hope Wine" polio fundraiser- deadline is Oct. 24 – Doing really well.*
  - *Brookline's "Real Science of COVID-19" event was huge! 1,000+ views as of this meeting, with 160 Zoom participants, YouTube, FB Live, and live-streamed on 5 local-access TV channels. A link to the recording will be shared.*
3. District Governor **Diana Nestorova** – Announcements of events in October:
  - *October 21<sup>st</sup> – new and prospective member Zoom event – Invites coming from Organizers ( Ron Bott)*
  - *October 24<sup>th</sup> World Polio Day – different activities and live broadcast from RI*
  - *November 17<sup>th</sup> – Next Open Doors – Rotary Foundation day – Keynote Speaker RI Foundation Trustee Chair Ravi Ravindran & Guest Speaker Peace Scholar Amanda Lanigan in Sweden.*

### **Service Projects – PDG Karin Gaffney – Interactive presentation**

### **Value of Volunteering in September Rotarian Magazine.**

#### **Discussion**

Karen asked following :

? - Write down their "Favorite memory in Rotary"

? – What are some of the direct benefits to a club that does a lot of service

- Build more relationships with club members & community
- Learn to collaborate with other service organizations in club's area
- PR - Build goodwill in community – Boost fundraisers
  - Tools are available in RI to help with PR
    - Press releases, logos,

- Member capture. Rotarians want to participate in hands on service
- Communities can support fundraisers with funds and volunteers.
- Gain credibility in community. More exposure makes it easier to be successful.
- Opportunity to invite friends, colleagues and family – easier than a meeting.
- FUN – Rotarians want to have “FUN!”

## SUGGESTIONS

- Club Service Chairs need to be a priority in Clubs! Shift focus from membership to Service and the membership benefits will follow.
- Suggest clubs have a Service Champion to research service projects
- Research what other clubs are doing. Use the RI website as a resource. District 7910 has a Service Project tab
- Its ok to adopt other club’s ideas and adapt it to your club
- Substitute Project for a meeting or Meal
- Read Value of Volunteering article in September Rotarian Magazine.
- If your favorite Rotary memory is doing a service project ... spread the word.

## Clubs Service projects – Project & Impact

- President **Lynn Duffy O’Shea**, Brookfields – Plexiglass dividers
  - Build plexi barriers for school teachers & Faculty that can’t wear masks due to the special needs of the audience.
  - Outdoor project that supported health, saved the school money and was hands on.
- President **Carolyn Read** on Million masks challenge
  - Helping connect community members with PPE mask needs.
  - All members have been able to participate and connect with low budget organizations in a 1 on 1 ( socially distance safe manner)
- AG **Sharon Spaulding**, Concord – Reverse Food Packaging event
  - Use zoom and PR to promote hunger awareness with a volunteer self fast. While learning about food insecurity issues affecting Sudan.
  - Collaborated with multiple clubs and able to still support their charity.
- Youth Chair **Dawn Marshall**, Billerica – Rotary room
  - Developed as a support for kids taken from homes in “middle of Night” Rotary provides “Gifts from the Heart” comfort items that can fit into a back pack. Toiletries, clothes etc. Other clubs have helped out as the project has grown.

- Members eyes have been opened to the local needs.  
Collaboration with other clubs and local donors.
- e. President **Kathy Wilfert**, Westborough – Rise above Launch box
  - Used a grant to help. Partnered with Interact and Rise Above Foundation to create “Launch Boxes” to set up young adults that aged out of the DCF system. Sheets, toiletries, kitchen items. Rotary will assemble the boxes.
  - Club members were moved by the presentation and took on the role to provide the support.
- f. **Chris Alphen**, Concord – Sleep in Heavenly peace
  - Build and deliver Beds for kids sleeping on floors.2-3% of the kids in MA sleep on the floor or have never had a bed of their own.
  - Members are able to participate hands on. They assemble and deliver.

**Youth Service Projects – Christine Pinney ( Bedford Club)-** Introducing the presenters from Interact and Rotaract Clubs and the Cleanup day this Saturday and how we can work together on Service projects with Young people -

- What can we do to keep RYLA safe but still move forward.
- Zoom “Meet-Ups” evolved to get the kids connected.
- Engage in Service parks – Youth are invited to beautify an outdoor garden area.
- Support the Interact Clubs

#### **Interact clubs –**

- **Acton-Boxborough HS – NHS Co- Presidents Joe Maffa and Rishi Girish –** Senior to Senior project. Provides support and resources for Seniors during the COVID . 1)Write letters weekly and monthly to keep seniors connected. 2)Organized drive through BBQ, shredding event. 3)Connect via Zoom. 4)Organizing a Veterans Day Event with a goodie package of muffins and letters with a follow up Zoom meeting later in the day.
- **A-B HS Interact Club -** Dance for Polio Raised \$3000 dollars with Gates Match became \$9,000
- **Littleton Interact Community club - Co-Chair Courtney Bottenhorn** 1) organizing a virtual walk or run 2) made and donated dog toys for a local dog shelter 3) fundraiser outside movie 4) giving tree collecting for toys for tots,

- **Northborough - Southborough Interact Community club - VP Andrew Yang** organized multiple projects. 1) Gathered and assembled care packages with masks, sanitizer etc and delivered to a local homeless shelter. Repeated the project for a soup kitchen 2) videos from local town figures to be featured on a YouTube video talking about COVID 3) recycle drive to reuse books from graduating seniors, SAT, AP and other books to undergraduates. 4) eye wear drive to donate prescription and sunglasses to an international recipient.

#### **Rotaract clubs –**

1. **BU - President Anya Thakur**– 1) wanted to stay connected to sponsor club. 2) Organizing a pen pal system with seniors 3) want to volunteer with community center so they can mentor kids 12-18 years old to start building relationships .  
**WPI - Treasurer Simon Rees** 1) goal is a mental health initiative. Destressing with movie nights 2) partner with a local school doing virtual meet ups

**Open Discussion – (All) Service projects during a Pandemic –**

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 17, 6:30 p.m. - Rotary Foundation Evening**